

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2124

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0222

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: EASTERN (OESER) OPENING ROUND
XII PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT MAY 12, 1977

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DISTRIBUTED IN GERMAN AND
ENGLISH LANGUAGES AND READ BY OESER AT OPENING OF PRES CONFERENCE.

QUOTE

IN THIS TWELFTH ROUND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MUTUAL
REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE
IT WILL BE FOUR YEARS NOW THAT THE PARTICIPATING STATES HAVE
AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLES AND AIMS BINDING ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS.
THEY FORM THE JOINTLY ESTABLISHED FOUNDATION ON WHICH WE CAN
BUILD A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF THE
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HIGH CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY POWER IN THE HEART OF OUR
CONTINENT.

ALL PROPOSALS MADE BY THE SOCIALIST STATES PROCEED FROM THIS.
THEY WERE REAFFIRMED AT THE MEETING HELD BY THE POLITICAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WARSAW TREATY IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.
THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE USSR, THE GDR, THE POLISH PEOPLE'S

REPUBLIC AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ON 19 FEBRUARY 1976 AND THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THEM, DURING THE PERIOD OF THE NEGOTIATIONS NOT TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF ARMED FORCES, MOREOVER SHOW A FAR-REACHING READINESS FOR A COMPROMISE. THIS IS PROOF OF THEIR WILL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI TO CONTRIBUTE ACTIVELY TOWARDS SUPPLEMENTING POLITICAL BY MILITARY DETENTE.

IN CONTRAST, WESTERN PARTICIPATING STATES HAVE HARDENED THEIR POSITIONS WHICH DEPART FROM THE AIMS AND PRINCIPLES AGREED UPON IN 1973 AND STAND IN THE WAY OF AN AGREEMENT.

LET US TAKE THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL 11 STATES MAINTAINING FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AS "POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS TO POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS" HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AND DUTIES AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ALSO HAVE TO MAKE AN ACTIVE CONTRIBUTION OF THEIR OWN TO SOLVE THE TASKS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN CONFORMITY WITH THIS IT IS NECESSARY,

1. THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MUTUALITY, ALL OF THEM REDUCE THEIR ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE IN PROPORTION TO THEIR SIZE, I.E. BY AN EQUAL PERCENTAGE;

2. THAT ALL OF THEM DIMINISH THEIR ARMED FORCES BY WHOLE MILITARY UNITS WITH THEIR ARMAMENT AND COMBAT EQUIPMENT;

3. THAT THEY REDUCE THEIR GROUND FORCES TOGETHER WITH THE NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCES, ALL OF WHOM HAVE MAJOR ARMS SYSTEMS AT THEIR DISPOSAL.

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WESTERN PARTICIPANTS REJECT SUCH A JUST AND EQUIVALENT WAY OF REDUCTION GUARANTEEING UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL SIDES. THEIR ENDEAVOURS AMOUNT TO REVISING THE AGREED FOUNDATIONS ESTABLISHING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL 11 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. CONTRARY TO THE FACTUAL MILITARY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WITH REFERENCE TO AN ALLEGED NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, THEY DEMAND SIZEABLE EFFECTIVE REDUCTIONS OF ARMED FORCES TO AN INCREASING EXTENT JUST FROM ONE PARTICIPANT, FROM THE SOVIET UNION. THEY DEMAND THE REDUCTION OF AN ENTIRE SOVIET TANK ARMY WITH 68,000 MEN AND ALL ITS EQUIPMENT, WHEREAS THE UNITED STATES JUST WANT AT THEIR DISCRETION TO INDIVIDUALLY "THIN OUT" 29,000 SOLDIERS FROM UNITS THAT OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO EXIST.

WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES AND CANADA REFUSE TO DETERMINE, EVEN IN GENERAL TERMS, THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE REDUCTION OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN A SECOND PHASE. THIS IS THEIR "RESPONSE" TO THE FACT THAT THE SOCIALIST STATES IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR MET THE

INTERESTS OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS BY AGREEING TO THE REDUCTION
IN A FIRST PHASE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND
THE UNITED STATES ONLY. NATO WANTS TO KEEP OPEN FOR THE FRG,
WHICH SUPPLIES ALMOST 50 PER CENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THIS
GROUPING IN THE REDUCTION AREA, EVEN A POSSIBILITY TO INCREASE
ITS ARMED FORCES. THIS IS THE MEANING OF THE REJECTION OF NATIONAL
REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS AND OF THE DEMAND FOR SO-CALLED COLLECTIVE
CEILINGS. SUCH CONCEPTION IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE SECURITY
INTERESTS OF THE GDR AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST STATES.

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FROM US REP MBFR

WHEN IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR NATO STATES TOO, PRESENTED
THEIR DATA ON THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN
THE REDUCTION AREA, THE UNTENABILITY OF THE WESTERN
CONTENTION OF AN EXISTENCE OF ESSENTIAL DISPARITIES BETWEEN
THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE WARSAW
TREATY AND OF NATO IN CENTRAL EUROPE BECAME EVEN MORE OBVIOUS.
THE SUBMITTED DATA OBJECTIVELY CONFIRM RATHER AN APPROXIMATE
EQUALITY OF THEIR SIZE. THIS CONFIRMS ANEW THE EQUITY OF THE
DEMAND MADE BY THE SOCIALIST STATES THAT ALL DIRECT
PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO REDUCE THEIR ARMED FORCES IN PRO-
PORTION TO THEIR STRENGTH. IN THIS WAY THE EXISTING
RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT A LOWER

LEVEL AND THE LEGITIMATE SAFETY DEMANDS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS
GUARANTEED.

WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SHOULD GIVE UP ADVOCATING ALLEGATIONS
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CONTRADICTORY TO THE REAL SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE
AND SHOULD DRAW NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DATA PRESENTED.
THEY SHOULD FINALLY AGREE TO AN EQUITABLE MUTUAL REDUCTION.
THE SOCIALIST STATES BY THE WAY STATED THEIR READINESS, ON
A MUTUAL BASIS TO EXCHANGE DATA ON THE SIZE OF ARMED FORCES OF
THE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING STATES. THIS IS TO FACILITATE
WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO CORRECT THEIR WRONG POINTS OF
DEPARTURE.

IN THEIR PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 1976 THE SOCIALIST STATES TOOK
UP IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY ALSO THE OFFER TO REDUCE A CERTAIN
PART OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS INSERTED INTO THE UNREALISTIC
WESTERN SCHEME. THEY PROPOSED TO REDUCE THESE AND OTHER
ARMS SYSTEMS ON A MUTUAL BASIS. THIS IS TO FACILITATE THE
COMMENCEMENT OF THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS.

DISREGARDING THE COMPROMISING ATTITUDE OF SOCIALIST
PARTICIPANTS TOWARDS WESTERN IDEAS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
NATO STATES IN A STEROTYPED WAY ARE REPEATING THE CLAIM THAT
SUCH REACTION WAS STILL OUTSTANDING. THIS IS A USELESS
ATTEMPT AT DISTRACTING THE ATTENTION FROM THEIR OWN MISSING
READINESS FOR A DIALOGUE. WITHOUT READINESS FOR A
COMPROMISE NATO STATES HOLD ON TO THEIR UNILATERAL
BASIC SCHEME DATING BACK TO 1973 AND DO NOT RESPONSE IN A
CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE
SOCIALIST STATES. THEY MAKE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOME AMERICAN
NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPENDENT ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR OVEALL
SCHEME AND DECLARE THAT THIS WAS A ONE-TIME OFFER. ON
PRINCIPLE THEY DO NOT WANT TO REDUCE ANY OTHER ARMAMENTS -
NEITHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS NOR OTHERS.

AT THE SAME TIME NATO STATES INCREASE THE MILITARY
STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA ON A
LARGE SCALE AND REJECT THE OFFER NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL
SIZE OF ARMED FORCES.

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TO RENDER POSSIBLE ADVANCES TOWARDS AGREEMENTS ON THE
EFFECTIVE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE,

WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE
ASSUMPTION OF EQUIVALENT OBLIGATIONS, TO REVIEW THEIR
POSITIONS IN A REALISTIC WAY AND, ON THE BASIS OF THE
AGREEMENTS OF 1973, TO MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION OF
THEIR OWN. LEADING WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNIZED THE
EXISTENCE OF AN EQUILIBRIUM IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND STATED THEIR
READINESS TO TAKE INITIATIVES FOR ADVANCES IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS.
IT IS HIGH TIME FOR THESE WORDS TO BECOME DEEDS AT THE
NEGOTIATING TABLE.

THE SOCIALIST STATES, AS HAS BEEN UNDERLINED AT THE
BUCHAREST MEETING OF THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE,
ARE DETERMINED TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO ACHIEVE MUTUALLY
ACCEPTABLE RESULTS HERE IN VIENNA. END QUOTE. RESOR

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